

EBENEZER CONANT, JR., one of the founders and a deacon of the Baptist church in Ashburnham and Ashby, Mass., was born in 1743, and died in 1783. He was a lineal descendant in the fifth generation, from Roger Conant, founder of Salem and governor of Cape Ann Colony. He was a patriot soldier of the Revolution, holding an adjutant's commission from the Council of Massachusetts Bay in the Continental army during the first four years of the war. His commission, signed by James Bowdoin, president of the Council, and afterwards governor of Massachusetts, is dated the 20th day of June, 1776. He withdrew from the service in 1780, with a shattered constitution, and a malady that proved fatal after a lingering illness of two years. He returned to his home wrecked in fortune as in health, having lost his pay by the depreciation of the Continental currency, large sheets of which he brought home, and of which a hundred dollars would not buy him a breakfast.

He married Lydia Oakes, of Stow, Mass., a woman of great strength of character, and after her conversion and union with the Baptist church, a devoted Christian in the church and household. While her husband was absent in the army, and after his decease, she maintained family worship, and opened her home for meetings of the church and for ministers of the gospel on their missionary travels.

On the birth of their first child, some years before, not being members of the Congregational Church, they owned the covenant (half-way covenant) that the infant might receive baptism. In the great religious awakening that followed the preaching of Whitefield, his parents, who were members of the Congregational Church, became converts and disciples, or "new lights," as then derisively called. He himself and his wife became dissatisfied with their half-way relation to the church, and convinced that they had no true religion. About that time they heard the preaching of a faithful Baptist minister by the name of Fletcher who visited Ashburnham. His preaching was blessed to their salvation. They were baptized with others, among them his aged father, and a small Baptist church was formed. The "covenant made between the Baptist brethren in Ashburnham and Ashby at their first coming into church order" is dated 1778, and is preserved in a manuscript volume containing his views of Christian doctrine and experience, a profession of faith, and other religious writings. The little church having no stated preaching and no place of worship, met for religious services at his house; where during his long illness, as his nephew, the late Rev. Dr. Dodge, of Philadelphia, informed the writer of this article, he was accustomed to address them with words of instruction and encouragement from the door of his sick-room.

What the little band suffered from the oppression of the "standing order" is told by Backus (History, vol. ii, 464, footnote). The "grain" there referred to, as seized under authority of law for the parish minister's use, was Ebenezer Conant's. But though poor and oppressed, they were enriched with spiritual blessings. His funeral sermon was preached by Father Case, the home missionary, long after known and honored in the churches of Maine.

*Backus, History of the Baptists, 3rd ed., vol ii p. 535

This article is from the "BAPTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA" edited by William Cathcart, D.D. and published by Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, in 1881
pages 259-260

JOHN CONANT, son of the preceding, was born in Ashburnham Mass., in 1773; died in Brandon Vt., in 1856. At a very early age he was the subject of deep religious impressions, which matured and strengthened with the growth of years, and were the inspiring and controlling influence of his long and active life. These early impressions were made by the conversation and prayers of Mr. Fletcher, the Baptist minister referred to in the previous article. "When he came to town," says the subject of this sketch in his manuscript diary, "he was mocked and hooted at by the populace. Some out of curiosity went to hear him preach. My father and mother went and were pricked to the heart. He was invited to their house, and became their guest, with permission to preach there to all who desired to hear." His conversation, says the diary, "attracted my attention. I loved him, and ate his words as sweet morsels, and they were blessed of God for the salvation of my young soul. I think now that if I ever loved religion, and enjoyed its sweets, it was then." He was eight or nine years of age.

In 1786 occurred the great revival under the preaching of another Baptist minister, the Rev. Joel Butler. "He came to our house," says the diary, "the place where meetings were held, and with him a godly man by the name of Smith. A meeting was notified, and the house was filled. The text was Genesis xix. 14 'Up, get you out of this place; etc.' The sermon was powerful, searching out all the hiding-places of professors, and non-professors. Mr. Smith then rose and requested parents to allow him to address their children. His earnest and pathetic appeals were felt by all. The place seemed to be shaken and overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. A powerful revival followed, and many were born into the kingdom."

The following entry in his diary is instructive, as characteristic of the spirit of the time: "On the 30th day of July 1786, the church obtained a faint hope for me, and I had but a faint one for myself. I was that day, with thirteen others, baptized and received into the Baptist Church, enjoying greatly that ordinance. I have ever since been favored, though unworthy, with a name and a place in the church of God. He was then in the fourteenth year of his age."

His father had died after a lingering illness of two years, during which his slender means were exhausted, leaving a wife and seven children, the oldest but ten years of age. A week before his death, the anxious mother pressed him to intrust some of them to dear friends who would care for them. "My dear wife," said he, looking up into her face with a smiling, joyful countenance, "I have already done that. I have given all your children to the dearest Friend in the world. This prayerful consecration of them to God," says the diary, "I believe was blest to the salvation of all his children."

The support of the family devolved mainly on his mother and himself, as the oldest son, from the time he was eight years old, while his father was absent in the army. He records in his diary that he was accustomed to go into the woods with a yoke of oxen, cut down a young tree and draw it to the house. "My father," he says, "having left a chest of carpenter's tools, I soon became a proficient in carpenter and joiner work; and when seventeen years of age I built a saw-mill for my mother, mostly with my own hands." So early were the habits of self-reliance formed. At the age of eighteen he could compete with the good workmen of the town, and at twenty he was promoted to be master of the interior work of the new church at Bolton, Mass. Finding the parish priest of the "standing order," a very dull preacher, he walked five miles every Sunday to hear a Baptist minister.

At the age of twenty one, having assumed the responsibility of providing a home for his aged mother and her surviving parent, he found it necessary to seek a more productive field of enterprise. On a visit to his relatives in Brandon Vt., his attention was attracted to a waterfall, which he purchased. Having removed to Brandon in 1797, he constructed a dam and mills on the water-fall. "I soon united," says the diary, "with the Baptist church here, with which I have always felt a sweet union, and, as I humbly hope, have tried to aid both in its religious and pecuniary interests. The feeble band met for a time in his rough tenement of sawn timber. In 1800 he united with eleven others in building a plain house of worship of moderate dimensions, doing the principal part of the work. In 1802 he built a house for himself." In 1832, "says the diary, "I wished to see a better house of worship for my Baptist brethren, I thought it my duty to go forward in the work, and build such a house as would be respectable, that others might be induced to come and see and hear for themselves. With much toil, and infirmity of body, I went through this undertaking, strengthened all along in the belief that I was doing that which it was my duty to do, and for which no one had a like mind. I have lived to see the house finished, and to see the church abundantly blessed in it." He afterwards erected a large summary building for a high school, under the direction of the Baptists. For his personal use he put up numerous buildings, mills, stores, dwellinghouses, an iron-foundry, etc., his diary recognizing the

Through life he was active in the public affairs of the town and of the State. In 1801 he was appointed a justice of the peace, and held the office forty years. In 1809 he represented the town in the State Legislature and with a brief interval, continued to do so until 1822. During the war with England 1812-15, he was appointed by the national government to assess the township for a direct tax. He was a member of the convention the revising the Constitution of the State, and was one of the electoral college that cast the vote of the state for Harrison. For many years he served the town as one of the selectmen, and of the listers of ratable estate and was postmaster of the town for fifteen years.

In 1806 he was chosen clerk of the church, and served it in that office thirty seven years. In 1818 he was elected deacon of the church. The responsibilities of that office weighed heavily upon his mind. He could not persuade himself that he had the spiritual qualifications of one who serves the Lord's table, and is an example to believers. At length he yielded to the voice of his brethren, and till his death, eight and thirty years was a devoted servant in the house of his Lord. "This office," he says in his diary, "I have considered the most responsible and honorable ever conferred on me by man. I have always felt myself unworth to hold it, seeing as I do so much unfitness in myself."

In 1794 he married Miss Charity Broughton, a daughter of Wait Broughton, of Pepperell, Mass. "A happy union," says the diary "with a faithful partner in all the joys and sorrows of life."

When the Board of Foreign Missions was formed in Boston for the support of Mr. Judson, then in the missionary field, they sent him a copy of their first printed circular. He wrote on it his name and subscription and placed it on the front of the pulpit, and was ever after a regular contributor to the funds of the mission.

His characteristics are well summed up by the Rev. Dr. Collyer in his life of the nephew of the subject of this sketch

(Note---"A Man in Earnest; Life of A.H. Conant, by Robert Collyer, 1872

"We can see that John Conant held and nursed a sweet ~~disposition~~ and well-toned religious spirit-----The man was a noble specimen of that sturdy, capable, self-contained nature only found in its perfection in New England; determined always to get along in the world, to gather property and influence, but with a solemn religious element woven through and through the business faculty. The sort of man most faithful, wherever he is found, in the support of schools, churches and public libraries"

BAPTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA CATHCART
pages 260-261

Thomas J. Conant, D.D. (Son of the above)
Born Brandon Vt 1802
Graduated Middlebury College 1823
Pursued philosophical studies for two years with Prof R.B. Patton
Taught a short time at Columbian College Washington, D.C.
Professor of Languages at Waterville College, Me.
Interested in Oriental Philology so moved to ~~Buxton~~ Boston
1823 made professor of Biblical Literature and Criticism Theological Sem., Hamilton, N.Y.
During this time spent two years abroad in study
First published work on the Bible a revision of the Book of Job,
Married daughter of the Rev. Dr. Chaplin first president of Waterville College, Me.
The above extracted from page 260-262 Cathcart.

The Merriam Family

- a William, of Hadlowe, county of Kent, England; a well-to-do land-owner (-I635)
m-Sarah
- I Joseph, born in England son of William and Sarah Merriam, came to Concord, Mass., and was admitted freeman March 14, 1638. (-I641)
Died Jan. I, 1641. Married Sarah. Six children.
- II Joseph, born in England, 1630, son of Joseph and Sarah Merriam, probably eldest of three sons, came to Concord, Mass. in 1638. Married July 12, 1653, Sarah Stone, born 1633, daughter of Deacon Gregory Stone. (1630-1677)
Joseph died April 20, 1677; his widow died April 8, 1704. 9 children.
- III Thomas, born in Lexington, in 1672, son of Joseph and Sarah (Stone) Merriam, married Dec. 23, 1696, Mary Hayward, and resided in Lexington, Mass., where he was selectman and constable for several years. He died Aug. 16, 1738; his widow died Sept. 29, 1756. Seven children. (1672-1738)
July II.
- IV Isaac, born in Lexington, Mass., in 1714, was the youngest of several sons of Thomas and Mary (Hayward) Merriam. Married Sarah Davis. (1714-1771)
- V Isaac, born in Concord, Mass. in 1736, was the son of Isaac and Sarah (Davis) Merriam. Married April 10, 1759, Eleanor Munroe, of Lexington, Mass., who died in Concord, Mass., July 19, 1767. (He married again.) (1736-)
"In 1772, he removed to Ashburnham, Mass., where he was a selectman and prominent in the affairs of the town.. He was also a member of the company of which Deliverance Davis was Captain and Ebenezer Conant Lieutenant, marching on the Alarm from Lexington April 19, 1775. "A Minute Man!" In 1793, removed to Groton, N.H." (Quotation from Stearns Hist. of Ashburnham.)
Isaac and Eleanor (Munroe) Merriam had four children, all boys.
a David, b., Concord Jan 28, 1760; married Elizabeth Conant. He died in Brandon, Vt., Feb. 15, 1849; his wife died June 3, 1842.
b Isaac, b., Concord, Jan. 29, 1762.
c Jonathan, b., Concord, July 6, 1764; m., Sarah Conant, Nov. 6, 1788
d. Benjamin, b., Concord, July 9, 1767; his mother died just ten days later. Benjamin died in Malone, N.Y.
Eleanor (Munroe) Conant
- VI Jonathan, born in Concord, Mass., July 6, 1764. Third son of Isaac and/ (1764-1826)
lived in Brandon, Vt. Married Nov. 6, 1788, Sarah Conant, daughter of Ebenezer, jr., and Lydia (Oak) Conant. He lived in Ashburnham until near the close of the century and was a Captain of Militia there; also a selectman and deacon. (Was called "Deacon Jonathan Merriam".) He removed to Brandon, about 1798, and died Apr. 26, 1826; his wife died May 2, 1839, Springfield, N.Y.
Children of Jonathan and Sarah (Conant) Merriam:
a Isaac, born Oct. 25, 1789
b Jonathan, b., Nov. 5, 1791; a minister, in 1826 living in Tinmouth, Vermont. (When Ann Eliza Wait was born, in 1826, her father wrote her mother's brother Jonathan a letter telling him of her arrival. It is very interesting and is in the Wait Letters which I copied.)
c Sarah, b., Aug. 31, 1794; married June 17, 1818, Rev. Samuel Wait, of White Creek, N.Y.
d Abel Wood
e Mylon
f Lydia, married Jacob Powers of Brandon, Vt; she died Dec. 1830. (Grandma Wait, her sister, had gone to Brandon to be with her, and on Jan. I, 1831, her own little son, William Carey Wait, died suddenly, not 3 years old.)
g Charles R. b., 1809; died Wake Forest College, April 9, 1837.
(Merriam genealogy cont. next page over.)

Married
Bethel Wait

1809
1794
15

- VII Sarah Merriam, daughter of Capt. Jonathan and Sarah (Conant) Merriam (1794-1871) was born in Ashburnham, Mass., Aug. 31, 1794. Married June 07, 1818, Rev. Sam'l Wait of White Creek, N.Y., (where his grandfather was pastor of the Baptist church from 1762 until sometime in the 1800's; Elder William Wait lived to be 90 years old. However, his own (Samuel's) father and mother did not join the church until late in life. *His son* He baptized them.). Dr. Wait's diploma bears the seal of Colby College, Waterville, Maine, which was founded in 1819. He was Tutor in Columbian College, Washington, D.C., for four years; resigning there, he and his wife came to North Carolina, where he was one of the founders of the N.C. Baptist State Convention and was also the Founder and first Pres. of Wake Forest College. In all his work, his wife ably seconded him. He died July 28, 1867; she died June 16, 1871. Both died and are buried in Wake Forest. They had two children;
- a Ann Eliza Wait, b., Columbian College, Washington, D.C., Feb. 1, 1826.
 - b William Carey Wait, b., New Berne, N.C., in 1828, while his father was pastor of the church there; died Brandon, Vt., Jan. 1, 1831, and his father who was in North Carolina travelling in the interest of The Baptist State Convention, did not hear of his death until Apr. 15, so poor were communications in that day. (I believe the little boy was buried in Middletown, Vt., because of a letter *dated* ~~dated~~ June 28, 1848, from that place to his wife in which Grandpa Wait speaks of having just been out to the grave of little William Carey in the cemetery *there*. At that time, 1848, his parents were still living there; his mother and father and brothers had removed to Middletown, Vt., from White Creek, N.Y., in the 1830's.)

The Conant Family
(Of French - Huguenot Stock)

John Conant, of East Budleigh, Devonshire, England
(Sir Walter Raleigh, born East Budleigh, 1552)

(1520-1596)

Richard Conant, of East Budleigh, England, son of John

(1548-1630)

Married in 1578, Agnes Clarke, daughter of a prosperous landowner. Husband and wife buried the same day, Sept. 22, 1630. Eight children: we have the names of three. (a) John, born 1586, went to Exeter, thence to Oxford. John became Rector of the parish of Lymington; later became a famous Puritan minister at St. Botolph's in Aldersgate, London. Afterwards, John became Rector of Exeter College and an advocate of the Restoration. He eventually conformed to the Established Church again. (b) Christopher, born 1588. In 1609, Christopher went to London to make his fortune and Roger soon joined him there. The speed with which they established themselves is impressive. In 1616, Christopher set up as a merchant in the parish of St. Lawrence and promptly married one Anne Wilton. (c) Roger. (For Roger's history see next below.)

Nov. 17

I Roger Conant, born in East Budleigh, Devonshire, Eng., youngest child of (1592-1679)

Richard and Agnes (Clarke) Conant. Married Sarah Horton, of London, Nov. 11, 1618, at St. Ann's, Blackfriars. They settled in London near Christopher and Anne, in the parish of St. Lawrence. Roger's rise in London had also been swift; he was now a member of the vitally important Salter's Guild and had sufficient money and distinction to be called "Mr." rather than "Goodman". Roger and Sarah Horton Conant had 9 children: Sarah, born London Sept. 19, 1619 and died there Oct. 1620; Caleb, christened May 27, 1622 and died in England in 1633, having been sent there to school; Lot, born Nantucket or Cape Ann in 1624; Roger, the very first child to be born in Salem, Mass.; Sarah, named for the other Sarah; Joshua; Mary; Elizabeth and, last of all, Exercise. Exercise's house is said to be still standing in Beverly, Mass.

"Roger Conant, (bap. 1592-1679), came from England in the "Ann" to Plymouth, Mass., in 1623 with his wife and son Caleb; removed to Nantasket (Hull); to Gloucester, 1625; to Salem, 1626, where his house was the first built; freeman, 1630; Gov. Colony of Cape Ann, 1625-'26; Gov. Colony of Salem, 1627-'29; rep. Gen. Ct. of Mass., 1634. Married, 1618, Sarah Horton."

From The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy, First Families of America, Edited by Frederick A. Virkins, -pub, 1925. A. N. Marquis & Co., Publishers.

"Roger Conant's nephew, John Conant, was Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, and Vice-Chancellor of the University". (Quoted from article on James Bryant Conant in TIME magazine.)

On Washington Square, Salem, Mass., stands a statue of Roger Conant, who founded the town in 1626, as an "agricultural and fishing community". He lived to be eighty-seven years of age. His beloved wife was gone and he had outlived all his sons except the youngest, Exercise. He said at the last, "There that ends it. Strange, how quickly and simply one can gather up the last threads of a great long cable of life like mine". "Where the dutiful Exercise laid him, no man knows."

II Lot Conant, born Nantasket or Cape Ann, Mass., was the third child of (1624-1674)

Roger and Sarah (Horton) Conant and their first to be born in Mass. "Lived in Beverly, but removed to Marblehead and there married, in 1649, Elizabeth Walton, the daughter of the minister, William Walton, a Cambridge University man. The social position put a premium on their daughters; Lot had done well. His bride had enjoyed a sheltered childhood in England. "They had ten children: five girls and five boys. Our find no names.

(OVER)

II Lot Conant cont.

Lot and Elizabeth (Walton) Conant had ten children; I have found the names of Nathaniel, the oldest, born July 28, 1650; (James Bryant Conant belongs to this line.) Roger, next to youngest, born 1669, our ancestor. Lot had succeeded in Marblehead to the extent of being a selectman, but he moved back to Beverly and built near his father. On Nov. 20, 1666, Roger deeded his house and 30 acres to Lot, who the next day leased them again to his father and mother for the duration of their lives at the annual rental of "one Indian corn". The plan to have Lot Conant take care of his parents in their old age came to naught when they died in the fall of 1674.

III Roger Conant, son of Lot and Elizabeth (Walton) Conant was born in (1669-1745) in Beverly, Mass., and lived in Concord, Mass. A farmer. Married Mary Raymond, in 1698. Ten children.

IV. Ebenezer Conant, oldest child of Roger and Mary (Raymond) Conant, "was born (1698-1784) in Beverly, Mass. Dec. 30, 1698, and removed to Concord with his father where he resided until 1752, when he removed to Ashburnham, Mass. He was a man of character and influence and his name receives frequent and honorable mention in the annals of his time. Died Oct. 24, 1784. Married Ruth Pierce; she died Nov. 19, 1797, aged over 80 years." (From History of Ashburnham, by Stearns.) 8 children, - 7 girls and 1 boy (our ancestor) as follows:
Mary, born Feb. 17, 1734.
Lydia, born Aug. 12, 1737.
Hannah, born Feb. 12, 1740 and married Joseph Dodge of Ashburnham. Stow
Ebenezer, jr., our ancestor, born Aug. 11, 1743 and married Lydia Oak of ~~Marblehead~~ Mass.
Eunice, born Dec. 4, 1745.
Abigail, born Oct. 27, 1749 and married a Mr. ****Sellingham.
Ruth, born Aug. 10, 1752 and married Sept. 8, 1774, Moses Ware of Fitzwilliam, N.H.
Elizabeth, born Apr. 8, 1755, who married Moses Tottingham.

Ebenezer Conant, jr., was born in Ashburnham, Mass., the son of Ebenezer and (1743-1783) Ruth (Pierce) Conant. (For Revolutionary War Record of Ebenezer Conant, jr., see Mass. Hist. Soc. papers and Stearns Hist. of Ashburnham, Mass. pp 138-142). Quoting from Stearns' History: "He was a prominent citizen. He served in the Revolution in Capt. Deliverance Davis' Co., as Lieutenant and Adjutant, which company marched on the Alarm from Lexington, Apr. 19, 1775. He also served nine months in the Continental army in 1779. Married Lydia Oak of Stow, Mass., Nov. 29, 1766. "After his death, his wife with six surviving children continued to reside in Ashburnham until the sons had grown up and settled in Brandon, Vt., where one of the daughters, the wife of Capt. David Merriam, was residing. Many of the descendants of Ebenezer, jr., and Lydia (Oak) Conant have been distinguished in literary and business pursuits." Lydia (Oak) Conant died in Brandon, Vt., Jan. 2, 1802. Ebenezer Conant, jr., is said to have been 5 ft, 9 in. tall and of a dark complexion. Seven children. For account of the children see Oak genealogy.

VI. Sarah Conant, born Ashburnham, Mass., Oct 17, 1770, the daughter (1770-1839) of Ebenezer jr., and Lydia (Oak) Conant, lived long in Brandon, Vt., and married Nov. 6, 1788, Deacon and Capt. Jonathan Merriam. She died in Springfield, N.Y., May 2, 1839.
8 children. For complete account of children see Merriam genealogy.

Conant.

(a) John. East Budleigh, Devonshire, Eng. b. about 1520:
d. 1596. (Sir Walter Raleigh, b. E. Budleigh, 1552).

(b) Richard. East Budleigh, Eng. b. about 1548: d. 1630
Wife Agnes Clarke. Husb. and wife buried the same day,
Sept. 22, 1630- 8 children. (Roger was youngest). The
family in England was a somewhat prominent one, including
clergymen, authors &c. Something is known about John's
ancestry, but there are no positive names and dates.

I Roger-- Salem, Mass.; bapt. at E. Budleigh 1592; lived
in London; m. 1618, moving to Plymouth, Mass. in 1623, to
Cape Anne in 1625, to Salem in 1626, his home being the
first built; a very prominent man, with some claim to be
considered the first governor of Mass. ; d. 1679. Wife
was Sarah Horton- 9 children. (Lot was the third). Children's
names; Sarah(d), Caleb, Lot, Roger, Sarah, Joshua, Mary, Elizabeth &
II Lot -- Beverly, Mass.- farmer- b. Nantucket or Exercise
Cape Ann, about 1624; m. about 1649; d. 1674. Wife
Elizabeth Walton; ten children.

Elizabeth was daughter Of Rev. William Walton, of Cambridge ^{Eng.} University, ^

III Roger-- Beverly and Concord; farmer; b. 1669;
m. 1698; d. 1745. Wife Mary Raymond; 10 children.

IV Ebenezer -- Concord, Billerica and Steadburg; farmer;
b. 1698; m. about 1734; d. 179⁸⁴. Wife, Ruth Pierce. 8
children.

Children

Roger + Sarah (Horton) Concord our immigrant ancestors, who came in 1620

I Sarah, b. London, ^{Sept.} 1619; died there Oct. 1620 ^{Mass. in 1623}

II Caleb, b. London, 1622; died in England, in 1633, having sent

back there to school

III Lot, ^{b. 1624} lived in Marblehead; married Elizabeth Walton

Ten children but give names of only two: Nathaniel b. 1650, oldest child (ancestor of J.B. Conant); and Roger b. 1669, next to youngest + our ancestor

IV Roger, ^{jr.} (when a boy was granted 20 acres by the town for being the first white child born in Salem; he early moved to Marblehead, where he received a similar grant of land.

Roger went to Ireland but found time to be one of the Marblehead town fathers.

Roger married Elizabeth Walton whose father was from Cork, Ireland; and she had probably spent her early life there for her son John (was baptized on the strength of her membership in the church there).

Roger and Elizabeth (Walton) Conant had two sons: John + Samuel. When Roger and his wife Elizabeth went to Ireland, their son John made his home with his immigrant grandfather Roger at Bass river.

Roger, jr., died in Ireland in 1672, June 15.

The same year, 4 of May, little Samuel, his son died. "The fire of Elizabeth Walton Conant's grief still burns in the family Bible where she wrote: "The 4 day of May 1672 being Saturday, my dear

little son Samuel Conant died. The 15 day of June 1672 being Saturday my dear, dear, dear husband Roger Conant died." (See pages 158 Roger Conant Biography)

V Sarah: five children (a) John + 4 girls

VI Joshua, married Seath Gardner daughter of Thomas Gardner. Joshua was a Sea-Captain and died in England in 1659, leaving an only child, ^{Roger} Joshua, who was brought up by his grandfather, Thos. Gardner took care of his daughter, Seath.

VII Mary married (1) John Balch, jr., was drowned Jan. 16, 1661, at Salem in the river there in a sudden squall, "by reason of the violence of the winds and wave and the extremities of the cold, he perished in the water." Mary married (2) William Dodge, Jr., Childhood Sweetheart; 5 Dodge children no names given.

VIII Elizabeth, never married

IX Exercise (find no record that he married) - In 1630, when the town of Beverly was from Salem, was incorporated, Roger Sr was treated as the leading inhabitant. As the old man relinquished his public activities, Exercise, the son, took his father's place in public affairs.

(These facts I have gleaned from the Roger Conant Biography by Shipton, in trying to find the number + names of the grandchildren of Roger + Sarah (Horton) I found the number of grandchildren to be 23, and the names of only six and they were boys.)

Children of Deacon Jonathan and Sarah Conant Merriam

a Isaac born Asburnham Mass. Married Mary Powers, Was a Baptist minister and lived in Tremont Ill.,

also a son of Jonathan
** A daughter Mary married John B. White who was the 3rd President of Wake Forest College -also Chaplain of the 117th Regiment Illinois Volunteers

Their daughter Lucie White married Col. Jonathan Merriam (same Regiment)

Brandon
b. Jonathan, born 1791 moved from Tinmouth, Vt. Bridport, Passumpsic, in 1836 he went to Springfield Ill. as a Minister. We find him on a note with A. Lincoln for the new State House. In 1839 he took a "homestead" in Tazewell County Ill., built a house of black walnut which is still standing. He died 1846. Is buried in McLean Ill.

Married Achsah Olin (1795 -1880) buried in McLean Ill.

Children Sarah Wait, born Bridport 1825 died 1828

Henry Marcellus b. Bridport 1828 d Tazewell County Ill. 1856

Julian b. Bridport 1830-1831

Mary Ann Elizabeth Bridport 1832-Tazewell Co., Ill 1842

Jonathan, Passumpsic Vt. 1834 died Wheaton Ill 1919

1st Wife Bessie Barlan

2nd Wife Lucy White

Lt. Col. 117th Regiment Illinois Volunteers

(1st Cousin of Ann Eliza Wait Brewer)

* c Sarah Married Rev. Samuel Wait

d Abel Wood

e Mylon Paschal's History Vol. II says that in 1874 Elder J.S. Purefoy arrived in New Bedford Mass., Dec. 2. "Here he found Rev. Mylon Merriam, a brother of Mrs. Samuel Wait, the last surviving one of the brothers. Though he was sixty-three years old he was active and energetic. -----getting the endorsement of Mr. Merriam he was strongly approved by the pastor".
He was the father of Cousin Betsy Wait Merriam -

f Lydia married Jacob Powers of Brandon Vt (Tobstone says Partner of Jacob Powers

g Charles R. b. 1809 died Wake Forest 1837

* Sarah the wife of Rev. Samuel Wait

Sister of Rev. Isaac Merriam

Rev. Jonathan Merriam

Rev. Mylon Merriam

connection of Jon B. White

niece of John Conant in Brandon!

*** Mary had come to Wake Forest to visit her Aunt, Mrs. S. Wait. She remained to teach the village school. Dr. White had prepared for the law. Mary didn't approve - so he started teaching and later became a minister also.

except about Mylon
These notes are from "Col. Jonathan Merriam and Family Compiled by Ralph Merriam and privately printed in 1940 in Chicago.

Notes taken in Public Library N.Y.C. 1924 by E.B.A.

Merraim-another branch of Merraim were really Marion.

ISAAC MERRIAM (Son of Isaac and Sarah Davis Merriam born 1736

Children

Captain

David 1760 (Revolutionary soldier married Betsey Conant sister of Sarah

Isaac 1762 (Married Betsey Wait

Jonathan 1764 (Concord

Benjamin 1767.

Rebecca 1771

Joshua 1775 (Ashburnham

Jonas 1780 (Brandon)

Jonathan Merriam md. Nov 1788, Sarah Conant. Resided in this town until near the close of the century. Removed with other families to Brandon VT. perhaps in 1798. He was Captain of the Militia in this town. Died April 26, 1826

Children

Isaac Born Oct. 25 1789

Jonathan 1791

Sarah 1794 (Md. Rev. S. Wait

Mylon

Abel Wood

Lydia

Pages 817-18 Stearns Hist. of Ashburnham

Ebenezer Conant Sr.,

Man of character and influence, name receives frequent and honorable mention.

Children

Mary, 1734, Lydia 1737, Hannah (Dodge) Ebenezer, Eunice, Abigail, Ruth, Elizabeth

Ebenezer-prominent citizen of the town. built a mill. Married Lydia Oak of Harvard

Children

Lydia 1768-1776

Sarah 1770 (Md. Jonathan Merriam)

John 1773

Elizabeth 1775 md David Merriam

Ebenezer 1777

Calvin 1779

Luther 1782 183?

(pages 641-624 Stearns

Conant Name, of Celtic origin Conan Cowo Ctn (Achief) Irish Cean

32 ways of writing the name

Saxon Cynning, a king

John Conant a Church Warden

Richard also Church warden, Married Agnes Clarke daughter of John Clarke mentions a will-a silver (bowl) silk grogren doublet-second best clokes-gold ring with Turkies and some money.

Roger Conant was the youngest son

Joan, Richard Robert Jane John Thomas Christopher Roger

Well educated (Surveyor) Vessel he sailed in was probably THE ANN Married in London 1618 Not a Separatist but a Puritan. Chosen Governor of Cape Ann because he was a sober, pious and prudent gentleman. Settled difficulty bet. Standish and Hewes. The magnanimity as well as justice of C., in this emergency is worthy of notice. Though he had been obliged to leave Plymouth because of divergency of ecclesiastical views, he had no wish to

encourage hostility against them or any unrighteous application of their property. He knew the rights of individual judgments in others, and however different it was from his own, he had no heart to treat them as enemies.

During the years after Cape Ann (1 yr) he occupied great frame house. After Endicott arrival the house was taken down and moved to Salem on Church st near West St.

He had prior right over Endicott but would not press himself. Wouldn't disturb the peace. Conant's colony the germ from which the Mass. Bay Colony sprung. Conant was tolerant mild and conciliatory quick and unobtrusive, ingenious and unambitious. Preferring the public good to his private interest with the passive virtues he combined great moral courage and an indomitable will.

He preferred the service of the Established Church!

Ebenezer Conant a Baptist \

A cousin of Ebenezer (Col. William) planned with Paul Revere the lanterns in the Old North Church. which were not displayed for Revere (he already knew) but for Conant

The Oak Family
(Originally from Wales)

I Nathaniel Oak, of Marlboro, (near Worcester) Mass; born about 1645; Imm- (1645-1721)

grant about 1660-165; died Westboro, Mass., Feb. 17, 1721. Married 2nd time, May 20, 1703, Mary Holloway (born Feb. 25, 1682; died after 1733), daughter of Adam and Hannah (Hayward) Holloway.

Of his coming to America we have the following statement, inscribed in the family Bible of one of his descendants, John Conant, (a Presidential Elector in 1844, one of the wealthiest men in Brandon, Vt., and a brother of Sarah Conant, our ancestress). "The grandfather of my mother was a cabin-boy on an English vessel bound to Boston. Nine miles from land the vessel foundered. All the ship's crew, except the boy whose name was Oaks, were lost. He, being a good swimmer, swam ashore. Thus he reached his after-home poor and penniless, without even clothes to cover him; and as was then the custom in America, having no friends here, he was bound out to earn his living. He was about fifteen years of age. His master set him to work in a pitch-pine forest to pick up pine-knots. In this employ, he was attacked by a cat-mountain, or wild-cat, which he slew with a large pine-knot. His master gave him the bounty the State paid for the pelt of this furious beast, with which he bought a sheep or two, which he let out to double. These sheep were all the property he had when he became of age. He often said that while swimming to land he suffered more from hunger than anything else. When tired, he would turn on his back and rest. The above account I have often heard my mother and uncles relate." (End of quotation from Bible.)

Nathaniel, as a man, was in comfortable circumstances; a land-owner. He is mentioned in town and county records; in the Worcester Magazine, 1826; and in Hudson's History of Marlboro. In 1692, he served in a garrison; and in 1707 as one of the Goodnow garrison, he took part in a fight with the Indians. In 1702 he signed a call to the Rev. John Emerson; and there are records of his land transactions. In 1717, that part of Marlboro, Mass., containing the Oak farm, was set off as Westboro; and later became part of Northboro. Near by, about a mile from the village and near the junction of the Marlboro and Westboro roads, is an old abandoned burial-ground, where doubtless rest the remains of Nathaniel Oak, and where the monument of his father-in-law, Adam Holloway, is still to be seen. Of the eight children of Nathaniel and Mary (Holloway) Oak, only one, Jonathan, our ancestor, ever left what is now Worcester Co., Mass.

Children of Nathaniel and Mary (Holloway) Oak:

Nathaniel Oak, b., June 7, 1704, and died aged 90, 1794.

William Oak, b., Feb. 18, 1706; he and some others were burned to death

Aug. 8, 1723; an account of it was published in the Boston paper.

Hannah Oak, b., Dec. 7, 1707, married 1728 Gershom Fay; died aged 92, 1807.

Mary Oak, b., Mar. 31, 1710, married 1735 Daniel Maynard; died aged 95, 1805.

Ann Oak, b., Sept. 9, 1712, married 1735, David Maynard; died *****.

John Oak, b., Mar. 16, 1715, married Susanna Allen and died in 1752.

Jonathan Oak, our ancestor, born Aug. 21, 1717, and died in 1784.

George Oak, b., Feb. 15, 1720, married twice. He lived in Westboro, Mass.,

on the farm now known as "Wesson" place, owned by the firearms firm, and one of the finest places in that region. George Oak served in the Colonial Wars, in the Crown Point expedition, and twice again, the last time as Ensign in Capt. Jonathan Fay's Co. In the Revolution, he is named in a company of Rutland Minute Men at the Lexington Alarm, 1775, and in Capt. David Bent's Co., marching to Bennington. Died after 1777.

(Over)

The Oak Family Cont.

II Jonathan Oak, son of Nathaniel and Mary (Holloway) Oak, was born in (1717-1784) Marlboro, Mass., Aug. 21, 1717. He was married four times and had 16 children. His first wife and our ancestor was Rebecca Barnard. 2 children were hers. She was the daughter of Robert and Rebecca (Osgood) Barnard. Capt. Jonathan Oaks, for thus he wrote his name in his later days, was the most enterprising and successful of the brothers. He was a land-owner in Westboro, 1738-'39; in Bolton, 1744; in Stow, Mass., 1745-'49. Then he bought 112 acres on Oak Hill, in Harvard, Middlesex Co., Mass., where from 1750-'70 he is named frequently in various records of the town and church, serving in positions of trust. In 1771, he obtained a grant of land in Canaan, Maine, and settled there. His land was part of the site of the present city of Skowhegan, Me., including an island in the Kennebec river that still bears his name. He was thus one of the first settlers. Though a man trusted by everybody and the owner of much land, having provided for many children at their marriages and the Continental currency being worthless, he was hard-pressed for money in Revolutionary times. Moreover, for several years before his death, he was totally blind. Tradition has it, several times appearing in print, that he fought with Gen. Wolfe at Quebec. Died in 1784.

Children of Capt. Jonathan and Rebecca (Barnard) Oak:

- (a) Mary Oak, b. Bolton, Mass., July 16, 1741, married 1758, Jonathan Sampson, a lineal descendant of Miles Standish, of the "Mayflower", and died Sept. 13, 1794; 13 children. Ebenezer Conant, jr.,
- (b) Lydia Oak, our ancestor, b. Stow, Mass., June 6, 1743, married/ a lineal descendant of Roger Conant, Founder of Salem, Mass. 7 children.

III Lydia Oak, daughter of Capt. Jonathan and Rebecca (Barnard) Oak, was born (1743-1802) Stow, Mass., June 6, 1743; died Brandon, Vt., Jan. 2, 1802. Married, Nov. 29, 1766, Ebenezer Conant, jr., of Ashburnham, Mass. (For Revolutionary War Record of Ebenezer Conant, jr., see Mass. Hist. Soc. papers and Hist. of Ashburnham, pp 138-142. Our D.A.R. National Number is 195781.)

Lydia (Oak) Conant is described is described as a woman of great force and business ability. Her descendants include a greater number of professional and prominent people than any other of the Oak branches. She needed her "force and business ability" for her husband died young and she was left with seven children to rear in those troubled times.

Children of Ebenezer, jr., and Lydia (Oak) Conant:

- a Lydia, b. Stow, Mass., Nov. 21, 1768; died Ashburnham, Mass., 1776.
- b Sarah, our ancestor, b. Ashburnham, Mass., Oct. 17, 1770; married Deacon and Capt. Jonathan Merriam, Nov. 6, 1788; died Springfield, N.Y., May 2, 1839.
- c John, b. Ashburnham, Mass., Feb. 2, 1773; married 1794, Charity Broughton; he was a Presidential Elector in 1844 and occupied many positions of trust.
- d Elizabeth, b. Ashburnham, Mar. 15, 1775; married Capt. David Merriam, Feb. 10, 1794.
- e Ebenezer, b. Ashburnham, June 6, 1777; removed to Geneva, Ill., about 1833. 7 children; among them a Unitarian clergyman, Rev. Augustus H. Conant.
- f Calvin, a physician, b. May 30, 1779; married Esther Rich of Pittsford, Vt. 6 children. Removed to Putnam, Ohio, in 1816; died Feb. 26, 1829.
- g Luther, b. June 24, 1782; married Regina Bemis and removed to Geneva, Ill. 5 children.

IV Sarah Conant, daughter of Ebenezer, jr., and Lydia (Oak) Conant, was born (1770-1839) in Ashburnham, Mass., Oct. 17, 1770; lived long in Brandon, Vt., and died May 2, 1839 in Springfield, N.Y. She is the original of the portrait which we call "The little grandmother." Married Nov. 6, 1788, Deacon and Capt. Jpnathan Merriam. 8 children. For account of children see Merriam genealogy.

OAK

(H.L.OAK)

Nathaniel Oak b. 1645

m. 1st Mehitable Rediat

2nd Mary Holloway dau. of Adam and Hannah Haywood Holloway

Nathaniel came from Wales but was probably English. Shipwrecked and was the only person saved, swam ashore nine miles. Earned first money as State's bounty for killing a wild cat. In documents called Yeoman-Planter and Gentleman.

Children; Nathaniel, William, Hannah Mary Ann John Jonathan George.

Jonathan: Skowhegan Me., married (1) Barnard (2) E. Wheeler (3) S. Wheeler
(4) A. Rand.

Captain in French and Indian Wars.

Dismissed from Church in 1761 never after a church man. Though he afterwards served as juryman, tithingman, constable surveyor and tax collector. Island in Kennebec River still bears his name. One of the first settlers of Skowhegan

Lydia, daughter of first wife Recca Barnard, probably lived with her gt grandfather possibly because of her step-mother. At least she was warned from Stow June 1762 though she was not a woman likely to become a burden to any town. It was a common custom.

She is described as a woman of great force and business ability. She carried on her husband's Eb. Conant's gristmill while he served in the Revolution. Lydia's descendants probably include a greater number of prominent and professional people than any other of the Oak branches.

The Wait Family of Rhode Island
(Originally of Wales)

"When surnames were generally introduced into England in the 11th century, those who held an office in most cases added its designation to their Christian names, thus: Richard, the minstrel-watchman, who was known as Richard le Wayte, afterward contracted to Richard Wayte. The name has since been spelled Wayte, Wayt, Wayght, Waight, Wait Waitt, Wate, Weight, Walet, etc.

In A.D. 1075, William the Conqueror gave the Earldom, City and Castle of Norwich, in England, to "Ralf de Waist" (son of "Ralf", an Englishman, by a Welsh woman), who married Emma, sister to Roger, Earl of Hereford, cousin of the Conqueror. The earliest record found and the source from whence all by the name seem to trace their origin, was this Ralf de Walet. There is no question among genealogical gleaners but that Ricardus Le Wayte, of the county of Warwick, who was in 1315 Escheator of counties Berkshire, Wilts, Oxford, Bedford and Burks, was a direct lineal descendant of Ralf de Walet. Thereafter the name was written Wayte almost exclusively, until the different ones of the same name came to New England, when Wait or Waite was used instead." (Quotation from "Family Records of the Descendants of Thomas Wait, of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, Compiled by John Cassan Wait, Corporation Counsel, The City of New York, etc. 1904.)

I Thomas Wait, born in 1601, originally from Wales; came to Boston in (1601-1677)

1634, and to Portsmouth, R.I., in 1638-'39, "with Ann Hutchinson and her associates", (quotation from F.A. Virkins First Families of America, pub. 1925.) Thomas Wait was a cousin to Thomas Wayte who was one of the judges and a member of Parliament who signed the warrant in 1649 for the execution of Charles I.

Almost immediately after his arrival at Rhode Island, Thomas Wait applied for a lot on which to build, (the land being held in common), and at the first meeting thereafter of the Council, the records of its proceedings show:

"July 1, 1639, Granted to Thomas Wait a house lot next to Mr. Wicks."

Mar. 16, 1641, he was made a Freeman at Newport, R.I., a privilege then granted only to church-members; in 1665 he is again described as a Freeman; Apr. 30, 1661, he bought lands in Acushnet and Cohasset, Mass.; he was also made a Freeman at Boston, Oct. 8, 1640.

Thomas Wait died in Portsmouth, R.I., some time before April 1677, and his property was divided among his six children: Samuel, our ancestor, Joseph, Jeremiah, Thomas, Mary, and Reuben. His wife was probably dead as no mention is made of her and we do not know her name.

II Samuel Wait, oldest son of Thomas Wait of Portsmouth, R.I., was born in (1640-1694)

1640 and died in 1694. Lived in Narragansett, R.I., 1663-1671; Wickford, R.I., 1668; Portsmouth, R.I., from 1677, the date of his father's death, until 1694, the date of his own death. The records all show he was a Freeman and had many land-transactions.

Samuel Wait married Hannah Whitman, of Kingston, R.I.

Four children: Samuel, our ancestor, born 1676; John, born 1678; Joseph, born, 1682; and Susanna born 1684, who was the ancestress of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, U.S. Navy, born 1785.

III Samuel Wait, of Wickford R.I., oldest son of Samuel and Hannah (Whitman) Wait, (1676- 1752)

was born in 1676 and died in 1752. Married Alice Wightman, of Kingston, R.I., daughter of George and Elizabeth (Updike) Wightman.

Alice Wightman was born Dec. 29, 1666 and died in 1747. She was therefore ten years older than her husband.

(For continuation of record of Samuel Wait, III, see next page.)

*William (?)
Mrs. Schenck
Wickford*

Wait Record Cont.

III Samuel Wait (cont.)

Samuel lived at Kingston and Exeter, R.I. In 1709, he and five others bought 792 acres of vacant land in Narragansett, R.I. His name is mentioned in land-transactions in 1725; in 1728; in 1735; and in 1740. The executor of his will, April 15, 1752 was his youngest son John.

Six children: Joseph, b. Apr. 27, 1697, married Susan Smith and died in 1757;

2 George, b. Aug. 14, 1699;

4 Benjamin, our ancestor, b. 1702, married Abigail Hall and died in 1745;

3 Samuel, b. Oct. 13, 1709;

5 Martha, b. -----

6 John, b. Feb. 22, 1709. Executor of Will which read as follows:

"I give to my son Joseph all the farm whereon his house stands, containing 200 acres, with buildings and 50E; and my riding-beast and bridle; to son Samuel west half of the homestead farm, he having a house thereon; to children of my deceased son Benjamin, viz: Virtue, Abigail and John, £250 divided at age; to son John, east half of my homestead farm and old part of house, with new part at my wife's decease, he paying the £250 above; to wife Alice, use of west half of house while widow, all indoor movables, and £18 per year while widow, paid by son John. Inventory: Cash, wearing-apparel, pewter, Bible and other books; linen-wheel, steelyards, warming-pan, spice, mortar, etc."

Daughter Martha not mentioned; probably dead.

IV Benjamin Wait, of Wickford, R.I., fourth son of Samuel and Alice (Wightman) (1702-1745) Wait, was born in 1702 and his will was probated Nov. 16, 1745, in Wickford. Married Abigail Hall. They had seven children, all born in Wickford, the records show.

Children: Henry, b. May 27, 1725; Benjamin, jr., b. Oct. 13, 1727; (Rev.) William, our ancestor, b. Jan. 9, 1730; Sarah, b. Jan. 19, 1733; Virtue, b. May 12, 1737; Jonathan, b. Aug. 11, 1742; and Abigail, youngest child, no date given.

V William Wait, third child of Benjamin and Abigail (Hall) Wait, was (1730-1826) born Jan. 9, 1730 at Wickford, R.I.; died May 20, 1826, at the age of 96.

Admitted as Freeman at Newport, R.I., May 1757. He removed to Cambridge, N.Y., wherever that may be, in 1774; his name appears in a deed in Newport, R.I., Sept. 29, 1788. He was a Baptist minister and a Goldsmith and was pastor of the Baptist church at White Creek, Washington Co., N.Y., from 1769 until some time in the 1800's. Married Mary Nichols, who was born Dec. 8, 1732 and died Dec. 28, 1822, at the age of 90.

Eleven children: Mary, b. Feb. 9, 1752.

Benjamin, b. Sept. 3, 1753, died in Canada, 1830 and married Ann Waldo, b. 1757; lived to be 96 years old, 13 children.

Sarah, b. Jan. 30, 1756.

John, b. Dec. 29, 1757, -had two sons.

William, b. Jan. 10, 1760, died 1832. A goldsmith & had two sons.

Stephen, b. Oct. 11, 1761, died in 1842. Had two sons.

Nicholas, b. Apr. 16, 1763.

Joseph, our ancestor, b. Mar. 6, 1765; he and his wife were still in 1848.

Abigail, b. Feb. 10, 1767.

Ezra, b. Mar. 6, 1769.

Zera, b. June 18, 1771; (the name indicates a sense of humor.)

(Wait Record Cont. on next page.)

VI. Joseph Wait, son of the Rev. William and Mary (Nichols) Wait, the eighth (I765-I848) child and sixth son, was born in White Creek, Washington Co., N.Y., in I765. *Martha Smith* He married Martha, surname not given. There are few facts we know about them, except such as may be gathered from the letters of their son, the Rev. Sam'l Wait and his wife. In I830, some of the Wait family, Rev. Sam'l Wait's parents and brothers were living in Middletown, Vt., having removed there from White Creek, N.Y. There were several brothers and sisters, but I have been able to find only the names of a brother, Hiram, (there is a letter from him), and a sister Betsey, wife of a Mr. Henry Burrington, and another who is spoken of as Br. Charles.

In I848, his parents were still living in Middletown, Vt., and I quote from a letter dated June 26, I848, which he, Sam'l Wait wrote to his wife in North Carolina while he was on a visit to Middletown:

"I found my friends here generally well. Father (Joseph Wait, b. I765) keeps in his room and can only get from his bed to the table, or a few feet from the bed. But Mother is nearly as active as ever. On the second Sabbath in July we shall try to let our aged parents see all their children together. Possibly we may meet on Saturday or Monday. **** I went into the Grave-yard yesterday morning, and lingered around the grave of poor little Carey (his only son) and of sister A. 'Tis a hallowed spot. Peace to their ashes. ***** I000 kisses to little Johnny, (John Bruce Brewer, then nearly 2 years old.)" (End of quotation from letter, which seems to prove that Joseph and Martha Wait had a large family of children. A visit to the old cemeteries in Middletown & Timmouth, Vermont, might give a lot of information about the family.)

VII. Samuel Wait, of White Creek, N.Y., son of Joseph and Martha Wait was born (I789-I867) Dec. I9, I789 and died at Wake Forest College, July 28, I867. Married Sarah Merriam, June I7, I8I8. She was the daughter of Deacon and Capt. Jonathan and Sarah (Conant) Merriam and was born in Ashburnham, Mass., Aug. 3I, I794; died Wake Forest College, June I6, I87I. Her father removed to Brandon, Vt., in I798, and there her early life was spent.

Two children: Ann Eliza, b. Washington, D.C., Feb. I, I826; died Wake Forest, Jan. 8, I900. William Carey, b. New Berne, N.C., I828; died Brandon, Vt., Jan. I, I83I. His father was in North Carolina travelling for the Convention and did not hear of his little son's death until Apr. I5, so slow were the communications of the time.

VIII. Ann Eliza Wait, b. Columbian College, Feb. I, I826, daughter of the Rev. (I826-I900) Sam'l and Sarah (Merriam) Wait, married at Wake Forest College, Nov. 5, I844, John Marchant Brewer, of Nansemond Co., Va., and died at Wake Forest, Jan. 8, I900. He died in I907; both are buried in the Wake Forest cemetery in the plot with Dr. and Mrs. Wait and their names are inscribed on the Wait monument. The handsome home which they built and which they lovingly called "The Old Castle" still stands in Wake Forest. Alas, the family have allowed it to pass into other hands!

Ten children:

John Bruce Brewer, b. Aug. 26, I846; m. July 2, I873, Anne Elizabeth Joyner, b. Oct. 22, I849. Mary A.E. Brewer, b. Sept. 8, I848; m. Nov. 20, I867, Wm. P. Perry, of Franklin Co. Samuel Wait Brewer, b. Feb. I5, I85I; m. Jan. 27, I880, Bessie S. Felt of Pennsylvania. William Carey Brewer, b. Feb. 28, I853; m. Dec. 20, I876, Mrs. Lou Gooch Prince. Sarah Merriam Brewer, b. Aug. 25, I855; m. Jan. 24, I877, Prof. Leroy W. Bagley. Richard Lewis Brewer, b. July I7, I857; m. (I) Sue Houston; (2) Lillian Bickett. Harriet Bruce Brewer, b. Aug. 20, I859; m. Nov. 5, I878, Dr. John Benjamin Powers. Jesse Marchant Brewer, b. Apr. 23, I862; died June I9, I862. Lydia Bruce Brewer, b. Feb. 5, I864; m. May I6, I882, Napoleon Bonaparte Josey. Charles Edward Brewer, b. July I2, I866; m. Love E. Bell, of Shawboro, N.C.

Children of John Brewer(VI) and Harriet Bruce Woodard
1752-1814 1804-1853

John Marchant(1820-1907)

Married Ann Eliza Wait(1826-1900)

Ten children

William Henry(1823--

Married Cornelia Kelley 1858

Children: Hugh Kelley (1860-1923)

Jesse Bruce (1862-1917)

Jesse Bruce Brewer (1825-1862)

Married Bettie Smith in 1849, she died 1854

(1) One son Jesse Bruce Brewer, Jr., b. 1854 moved to California

(2) Elfreda Holland

Two daughters Elfreda and Annie (married Harrison White)

Richard Lewis Brewer (1827-1902)

Married Mrs. Judith Ann Robertson(1835-1883)

Children: Jennie Lewis (Married Huffman)

Richard Lewis (Married Lelia Vellines, one daughter Judith
(1864-1947) (2) Belle Ashburn

Annie Lewis, never married (1866-1954)

The Woodard Family

I Marchant Webb Woodard, (of Virginia?)
Married Phoebe Bruce Powell

II Harriet Bruce Woodard, daughter of Marchant Webb and Phoebe Bruce (Powell) ~~Woodard~~, was born Feb. 22, 1804; died May, 1, 1853. (1804-1853)
Married in 1819, John Brewer, of Nansemond Co., Va.
Children: 1 John Marchant, 1820
2 William Henry, 1823
3 Jesse Bruce, 1825
4 Richard Lewis, 1827

She was a widow a long time after her husband died and is said to have had many offers of marriage, but she remained a widow.

III John Marchant Brewer, son of John and Harriet Bruce (Woodard) Brewer (1820-1907)
was born Nov. 9, 1820, in Nansemond Co., Va.
Married Nov. 5, 1844, Ann Eliza Wait, only daughter of Sam'l and Sarah (Merriam) Wait, (1826-1900)
He died in 1907; she died in 1900.
Ten children; for full account of children, see Wait record.

IV John Bruce Brewer, oldest child of John Marchant and Ann Eliza (Wait) (1846-1929)
was born at Wake Forest College, Aug. 26, 1846.
Married July 2, 1873, Anne Elizabeth Joyner, daughter of William H. and Julia (Timberlake) Joyner, Dr. W. M. Wingate, Pres. of Wake Forest College, the officiating minister. (See marriage license in family Bible.)
Nine children: for names and dates of children see Brewer record.
He died in 1929 and she died in 1926. Both lie buried in the Wake Forest cemetery.

(A fuller account of the children of John and Harriet Bruce Woodard Brewer:)
Four children: a John Marchant, born Nov. 9, 1820; married Ann Eliza Wait, Nov. 5, '41
Ten children : John Bruce, Mary Ann Eliza, Samuel Wait, Wm. Carey, Sarah Merriam, Richard Lewis, Harriet Bruce, Jesse Marchant, Lydia Bruce, and Charles Edward, born in 1866.
b William Henry, born May 25, 1823; married Cornelia Kelly, 1858.
Two sons: Hugh Kelly Brewer, born 1860, & died Feb. 12, 1923.
Jesse Bruce Brewer, born 1862, & died Apr. 1917.
c Jesse Bruce Brewer, born Nov. 18, 1825; married Bettie Smith who died in 1854, leaving one son, Jesse Bruce Brewer, jr., who at age 25 removed to California; 2nd wife, Elfreda Holland, - they had two daughters, Elfreda and Annie Brewer.
d Richard Lewis Brewer, born Dec. 11, 1827; married Mrs. Judith Ann Robertson. Three children: Jennie Lewis, Richard Lewis, and Annie Lewis.)

THOMAS WAITE AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDENTS, PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND
 by G. Andrews Moriarty
 from vol. 73 of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register

(In the course of investigation it was found that printed accounts of this family, including that of Austin in his "Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island" were so confused and inaccurate as to be of little value to the Investigator, while in addition, sundry errors and misreadings in Arnold's "Vital Records of Rhode Island" did not help matters. The object of this article is therefore solely to aid such persons as may have occasion to investigate the earlier generations of this family and to save them from the confusion that the writer encountered in his investigation)

THOMAS WAITE, husbandman.

1 July 1639 granted land Portsmouth R.I. 16 March 1641 Freeman
 1644-46 further grants 7 June 1658 chosen constable
 1663 Chosen Constable 3 July 1660 Jurymen

30 April 1661 purchased of Wm. Earle one-fourth of a share of the Acushnet and Coxet lands in what is now Dartmouth, Mass. He was one of the purchasers of Conanicut and Dutch Islands in 1646. Was a large owner of lands at Narragansett and Misquanicut (westerly)

4 December 1669 his estate was divided by the Portsmouth Town Council among his wife Eleanor and children: Samuel, Thomas, Benjamin, Reuben, Jeremiah and Mary. Joseph having died previously was not named. Thomas and Jeremiah were under 21 years of age. The document dividing the estate was long lost but was found in the winter of 1913-14 in the cellar of the Portsmouth Town House. This Thomas Waite may be the same Thomas, sixth son, of Samuel and Mary Ward Waite of Wethersfield, County Essex, England who were the progenitors of the Waites of Malden, Mass.

Samuel (Thomas 1) b. abt. 1640 died Feb. 1675/6

Samuel 2 received from his father his Narragansett lands and appears to have been at Narragansett as early as 8 March 1656 when he witnessed as Interpreter a deed from the Sachem Coginaquand to Richard Smith of land Potomcassett on June 23, 1662, he, aged 22 years testified regarding this deed. He again deposed 26 Feb. 1667 aged about 27 years. On 23 July 1663 he was one of the inhabitants and Proprietors of lands in Narragansett, petitioned to be taken under the jurisdiction of Connecticut. On 4 May 1665 he was one of the inhabitants of Wickford R.I. who petitioned Connecticut to reassume authority over the Narragansett country; otherwise they might seek protection elsewhere. 6 May 1673 Freeman of R.I. 20th of May 1671 abandoned allegiances to Conn. and took oath of allegiance to R.I. as an inhabitant of ACquedneset and on 11 Feb. 1676 he and wife Hannah conveyed to his brother Thomas the house and all the land in Portsmouth received from his father's estate in division mentioned above. He died shortly and in Feb. 1677 administration of his wstate was granted to his wife Hannah by Portsmouth Council. She married 2nd James Sampson of Dartmouth.

Children: Samuel, b. abt 1660

Joseph of Kingston non com mentis died unmarried His brother Samuel drew farm 24 on account of his brother Joseph wait. 1678 division of Lands of East Greenwich, R.I.

Susanna (probably) m. Kingstown 24 March 1692 Moses Barber

Samuel 3 (Samuel 2, Samuel 1, Thomas) born Exeter R.I. before 15 April 1752. Resided at Kingston R.I. in that part of town afterward set off as Exeter. 30 March 1693 sold to Wm. Burrington land at Portsmouth at a place called Little Silver and on 12 Oct. 1694 James Sampson of Dartmouth abd his wife Hannah released their thirds of this piece of land sold by "ou" Samuel wait to Wm. Burrington. 2 Feb. 1695 Freeman at Kingston-7 May 1694 sold land at Kingston. 21 April 1705 he quitclaimed to his Uncle Reuben wait of Dartmouth lands in Dartmouth that formerly belonged to his grandfather Thomas wait. 27 May 1709 he with others bought 792 acres of land (vacant) in Narragansett. 2 Sept 1706 he was a grand jurymen. Appears in Kingston records several times conveying lands to his various sons. In his will dated 30 Dec. 1747 proved April 1752 he devised and bequeathed to sons Joseph and Samuel and to children of his deceased son Benjamin, namely Virtue, Abigail and John ~~wait~~ to his son John and to his own wife Alice (Alice Wightman-daughter of George and Elizabeth Uplike Wightman)

Children:

Joseph, 27th April 1697

George, b. 14 Aug. 1699 dsp before 30 Dec. 1747

Samuel b. 12 Oct 1701

Benjamin b. 1703

Martha

John 22 Feb 1703/9

Benjamin Wait Esq. (Samuel Samuel Thomas)

Benjamin 4, born 1703 died 1745 m. Abigail Hall daughter of Benoni Hall. She married a Hi-

REV. WILLIAM WAITE.
6-7-1731 = March 20 1826

Married Mary Nichols 1751
12-8-1732:; 12, 28-1822

Mary	Benjamin	Sarah	John	William	Stephen	Nicholas	Joseph	Abigail	Ezra	Zera
1751/2 (went to 1756)	1757	1760	1761	1763	1763	1768	1769	1771		
1842 Canada)	1837	1832	1824				Martha Smith (1770-1851)			
1753							Children			
1830							Samuel Wait 1789-1867			
							Betsey - married Henry Burrington			
							Charles			
							*Azubah (married Griswold) 1797-1817			
							*Hiram 1800-1852			
							* Smith 1805-1879			
							(*Buried in the cemetery at Idletown Springs			
							W.F. with Joseph and Martha and little William			
							Carey			

Darius Wait
Thomas Augustus Wait
born Mass- Kesekuk Iowa

Children of Benjamin(4) and Abigail Hall Wait
Henry b.27 May 1725 d.young

Dr.and Elder Benjamin b.1729 d March 1811

William b.June 1731

Sarah b.9Jan 1733

Virtue b.1735

Jonathan

Abigail

John 1742-1827

William Wait(Benjamin, Samuel, Samuel, Thomas) 1731-

Silversmith, Exeter and South Kingston, Married Mary Nichols daughter of
Joseph Nichols 1751

Children:

Mary b 1751/2

Sarah b 1756/7

William 1760

Nicholas 1763

Abigail 1767

Benjamin b.1753

John 1757

Stephen 1761

Joseph 1765

Ezra 1769

Zera 1771

Not to be confused with third cousin Wm.Wait son of Capt.John. 12th May 1760 he
styled Silversmith of South Exeter sold land in West Greenwich.1755 land in South
Kingstown. 15 Dec.1757 Elisha Reynolds of South Kingstown sold land to Wm.Wait of same
place, Silversmith. 29th Feb.William Wait of South Kingstod Yeoman and wife Mary sold same
land. Said to have removed to Cambridge New York 1774 and to have died March 1826

Another note of interest

27 March 1740 Samuel Wait of North Kingston conveyed to his son Benjamin
Wait of same place "Practitioner of Physick" 200 acres land in East Greenwich, R.I. He was
assistant of the Colony 1 May 1745. Will, which is badly charred is on record at North King-
stown R.I. and proved 13 Nov.1745. Styles self as Yeoman and bequeathes to daughter Virtue
dau.Abigail son William and son Benjamin. His widow Abigail gives quitclaim to his son
Benjamin in 1749.